

Assembly Bill No. 622

CHAPTER 269

An act to amend Sections 51420 and 51423 of the Education Code, relating to high school equivalency certificates.

[Approved by Governor October 5, 2007. Filed with
Secretary of State October 5, 2007.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 622, Mullin. High school equivalency certificates: confined persons.

(1) Existing law requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to issue a California high school equivalency certificate to any person who passes a general educational development test approved by the State Board of Education and administered by an approved testing center, is a California resident or a member of the armed services and assigned to duty in California, and is either 18 years old or would have graduated from high school if he or she had remained in school and followed the usual course of study toward graduation.

This bill, in addition, would add a person who is at least 17 years old, has accumulated a certain number of units of high school credit, and is confined to a state or county hospital or to an institution maintained by a state or county correctional agency, to the list of persons who are eligible to receive a high school equivalency certificate.

(2) Existing law authorizes the Superintendent to provide for the administration of the general educational development test to persons confined in certain hospitals or correctional institutions.

This bill would authorize the Superintendent to grant a waiver to a county office of education to provide a general educational development test preparation program, not to exceed one hour per schoolday, as part of any other instructional program during the regular schoolday to a person who is at least 17 years old, has accumulated insufficient units of high school credit to graduate from high school by 18 years of age, and is confined to a state or county hospital or to an institution maintained by a state or county correctional agency.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 51420 of the Education Code is amended to read:

51420. The Superintendent shall issue a California high school equivalency certificate and an official score report, or an official score report only, to any person who has not completed high school and who meets all of the following requirements:

(a) Is a resident of this state or is a member of the armed services assigned to duty in this state.

(b) Has taken all or a portion of a general educational development test that has been approved by the state board and that is administered by a testing center approved by the department, with a score determined by the state board to be equal to the standard of performance expected from high school graduates.

(c) Meets one of the following:

(1) Is at least 18 years of age.

(2) Would have graduated from high school had he or she remained in school and followed the usual course of study toward graduation.

(3) Is at least 17 years of age, has accumulated fewer than 100 units of high school credit, and is confined to a state or county hospital or to an institution maintained by a state or county correctional agency.

SEC. 2. Section 51423 of the Education Code is amended to read:

51423. (a) (1) The Superintendent may provide for the administration of the general educational development test to persons confined to state or county hospitals or to institutions maintained by state or county correctional agencies.

(2) Those agencies, upon request, shall reimburse the Superintendent in an amount sufficient to pay the cost of administering the test.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Superintendent may grant a waiver to a county office of education to provide a general educational development test preparation program, not to exceed one hour per schoolday, as part of any other instructional program during the regular schoolday to a person who is at least 17 years of age, has accumulated insufficient units of high school credit to graduate from high school by 18 years of age, and is confined to a state or county hospital or to an institution maintained by a state or county correctional agency.